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DOMESTIC SURVEILLANCE DIVIDES ARIZONA AND NATION; PUBLIC OPINION SPLIT ALONG PARTY LINES

Arizonans are deeply divided in their beliefs about conducting domestic surveillance in the war against terrorism, according to results of a recent telephone survey. Slightly more than half of Arizonans (52%) think wiretapping without court approval is an acceptable way to investigate terrorism. Forty-nine percent say the government should not be required to get a warrant before monitoring communications involving American citizens, while 47 percent say monitoring should only be allowed when a warrant is issued. Democrats and Republicans, for the most part, stand on opposite sides of this issue. At the same time, there is more consensus about the limits of government monitoring. Sixty-three percent of Arizonans are not willing to allow for the monitoring of communications from ordinary Americans on a regular basis.

Arizona views on this topic are similar to national opinion.

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted by the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University. The survey was conducted with a sample of 600 randomly-

selected Arizona adults. Calling took place between March 3rd and 7th, 2005. Survey results are valid at a +/- 4.0 percent margin of error at a 95 percent confidence level.

ARIZONANS SPLIT OVER DOMESTIC SURVEILLANCE QUESTIONS

The Arizona public is divided over questions about the acceptability and desirability of bringing domestic surveillance into the war against terrorism. When asked if they consider the wiretapping of telephone calls and e-mails without court approval “acceptable” or “unacceptable” as a way for federal government to investigate terrorism, 52 percent say it is “acceptable” and 44 percent say it is “unacceptable.” Four percent “don’t know.”

Republicans and Democrats have nearly opposite views on this question. Whereas 69 percent of Democrats say the practice is “unacceptable,” 75 percent of Republicans say it is “acceptable.” Conversely, twenty-two percent of Republicans say the practice is “unacceptable” and 27 percent of Democrats say it is “acceptable.”

The aggregate numbers for Arizona mirror national opinion. A recently conducted national survey revealed that 54 percent of Americans find wiretapping without court approval an acceptable way for the federal government to investigate terrorism and 46 percent say it is unacceptable.

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* asked Arizonans if the Bush Administration should be required to get a warrant from a judge before monitoring phone and Internet communications between American citizens in the United States and suspected terrorists, or should not be required to get a warrant. Arizonans are divided once again on this question. Forty-nine percent say the government should be allowed to monitor communications involving American citizens without a warrant and 47 percent say a warrant should be required. The national public is also

divided on this question. Nationally, 50 percent of Americans say a warrant should be required and 48 percent say monitoring should be allowed without a warrant.

Once again, Democrats and Republicans in Arizona have nearly opposite positions on this issue. Seventy-one percent of Republicans say monitoring of American citizens should be allowed to take place without warrants and 70 percent of Democrats say warrants should be required.

SURVEILLANCE SHOULD NOT BE CONDUCTED ON A REGULAR BASIS

Although the public is divided about the legal basis for domestic surveillance, a solid majority says government agencies should not be allowed to monitor phone calls and e-mails of ordinary Americans on a regular basis. Fewer than two-thirds (63%) of Arizonans and 70 percent of Americans nationally do not support regular monitoring of telephone calls and e-mail messages. One-third of Arizonans (33%) and 28 percent of the national public would allow monitoring of communications of ordinary Americans to take place on a regular basis. Democrats in Arizona (75%) are more in favor of restricting the scope of monitoring activities than Republicans (50%).

Fred Solop, study director, commented, “Questions about domestic surveillance have split the American public down the middle. There seems to be little room for compromise on this issue other than a general agreement that the scope of monitoring activities should be restricted. As questions about the war on terrorism continue to be raised within the national dialogue, we may see the public become less tolerant of widespread monitoring activities taking place outside of the checks and balances system of government.”

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**GRAND CANYON STATE POLL
BACKGROUND MEMO**

Spring 2006

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted between March 3rd and 7th, 2006. A random sample of 600 adult residents of Arizona was asked questions regarding domestic surveillance by the U.S. government. Survey question results are subject to a sampling error of +/- 4.0 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. Sampling error is the probable difference in results between interviewing everyone in the population versus a scientific sample taken from the population. Sampling error does not take into account additional sources of error inherent in any study of public opinion. The data referred to in this release are presented below.

Do you consider the wiretapping of telephone calls and e-mails without court approval an acceptable or unacceptable way for the federal government to investigate terrorism?

	Acceptable	Unacceptable	Don't know
National*	54%	46%	---
Arizona	52%	44%	4%
Democrats	27%	69%	4%
Independents	50%	47%	4%
Republicans	75%	22%	4%

*ABC/Washington Post Poll: March 2-5, 2006

Should the Bush Administration be required to get a warrant from a judge before monitoring phone and Internet communications between American citizens in the United States and suspected terrorists, or should the government be allowed to monitor such communications without a warrant?

	Require warrant	Monitor w/o warrant	Don't know
National**	50%	48%	2%
Arizona	47%	49%	4%
Democrats	70%	26%	4%
Independents	49%	47%	4%
Republicans	25%	71%	4%

**Associated Press/IPSO Poll: February 6-8, 2006.

In order to reduce the threat of terrorism, would you be willing or not willing to allow government agencies to monitor the telephone calls and e-mails of ordinary Americans on a regular basis?

	Allow monitoring	Don't allow monitoring	Don't know
National***	28%	70%	2%
Arizona	33%	63%	4%
Democrats	21%	75%	4%
Independents	30%	67%	4%
Republicans	45%	50%	5%

*** CBS News/New York Times Poll: January 20-25, 2006.